REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully requested.

Currently, claims 9-10 and 14-15 are pending in this application.

Request for Return of Fully Initialed Form PTO-1449:

The Office Action included a partially initialed Form PTO-1449. Reference U.S.

Patent No. 6,236,910 was not initialed as being considered on the Form PTO-1449.

Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Form PTO-1449 be fully initialed so

that the record is clear that all of the references cited thereon, including U.S. Patent No.

6,236,910, have been considered. For the Examiner's convenience, attached is a copy of

the partially initialed Form PTO-1449.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §112, Second Paragraph:

Claims 1-13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as allegedly

being indefinite. The Office Action stated "The claims are generally narrative and

indefinite, failing to conform with current U.S. practice." However, the Office Action

did not provide any particular allegation that any specific claim language was indefinite.

Applicant submits that still pending claims 9-10 are in full conformance with 35 U.S.C.

§112, second paragraph.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §102:

Claims 1-13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as allegedly being anticipated

by Sakai et al (U.S. '249, hereinafter "Sakai"). Applicant respectfully traverses this

rejection.

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For a reference to anticipate a claim, each element must be found, either expressly or under principles of inherency, in the reference. Each element of the claimed invention is not found in Sakai. For example, Sakai fails to teach or suggest "wherein the coupling processing program has a command code for making the computer execute processing for acquiring the data provided by the application program and converting the data provided from the processing using the application program so as to be adapted to the PF interface in accordance with an AP interface as an interface satisfying the required specification of the control apparatus for a vehicle of a developing object, and mediating converted data in the processing using the platform program," as required by independent claim 9 and claim 10 which depends therefrom.

The above claimed feature is supported by, for example, the exemplary embodiment described in Figs. 9A-9B and corresponding textual description provided on page 28 of the specification. In particular, a coupling program section 3 includes a processing part having a command code for making a computer 11 to acquire data generated in an application program section (AP) 4 to be used in a platform program section (PF) 2. The application program (AP) therefore need not be developed in consideration of the timing for providing the data. The programming work for the application program is therefore greatly simplified since the application program may be developed without consideration of (i.e., independently of) the timing for providing data.

Sakai discloses a program which is divided into three parts: an application program part 100, a conversion program part 200 and a driver program part 300. The

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Office Action apparently alleges that the conversion program part 200 corresponds to the claimed coupling program. In this arrangement, when the conversion program part 200 requests data to be supplied from the application program part 100, the application program part 100 will have to transmit requested data at an appropriate point(s) in time. Accordingly, the application program will have to be developed in consideration of transmitting data at an appropriate point(s) in time. Accordingly, the programming work required for the application program part is greatly complicated.

Accordingly, Applicant submits that still pending claims 9-10 are not anticipated by Sakai and respectfully requests that the rejection of these claims under 35 U.S.C. §102 be withdrawn.

New Claims:

New claims 14-15 have been added to provide additional protection for the invention. New claim 14 requires, *inter alia*, "wherein the coupling processing program component has a command code for making the computer execute processing for acquiring the data provided by the application program component and converting the data provided from the processing using the application program component so as to be adapted to the PF interface in accordance with an AP interface as an interface satisfying the required specification of the control apparatus for a vehicle of a developing object, and mediating converted data in the processing using the platform program component." Applicant submits that claims 14-15 are allowable.
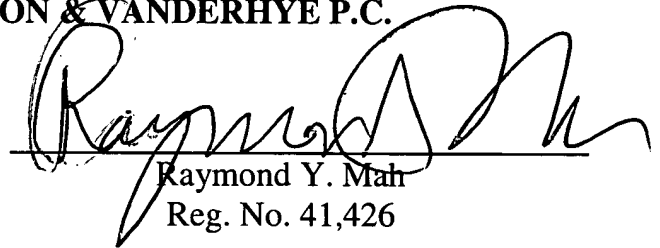
Conclusion:

Applicant believes that this entire application is in condition for allowance and respectfully requests a notice to this effect. If the Examiner has any questions or believes that an interview would further prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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